

SIMPLE UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE
ACT OF 2009

(Mr. TERRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TERRY. I am introducing the Simple Universal Health Care Act, a plan which will let the uninsured opt into a system which is an identical twin to the health care that we have in Congress. This plan removes restrictions on preexisting conditions. It allows employers to opt in and maintain the current tax benefits for providing coverage. The administrative costs will be around \$15 million, not billion, not \$1.2 trillion, and would be paid for by the insurance companies, leaving the taxpayers with no cost.

This plan offers a variety of options, and companies compete for customers, thus holding down the cost and maximizing benefits without a government takeover of health care, without using taxpayer dollars, without taking money from Medicare or raising taxes on small business.

The SUH Act is a simple, affordable private-sector approach to making sure all people have access to health insurance, and I encourage Members of both sides of the aisle to support this simple solution.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. GUTHRIE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Congress, I not only have the responsibility of looking out for future generations, but also a duty to ensure that we are doing all we can to take care of our seniors. Real reform needs to make health care more affordable and more accessible. Unfortunately, the bills being crafted by the majority could threaten the health care benefits seniors already receive while raising premiums.

The plan currently in the House makes massive cuts to Medicare which the Congressional Budget Office anticipates will increase seniors' Medicare prescription drug premiums by 20 percent over the next decade.

For those who live on a fixed income, the possibility of having to pay more is very worrisome.

Their plan also includes cutting \$162 billion from Medicare Advantage, a program widely supported by the seniors because of its choices and affordability.

We should focus on ensuring Medicare continues to be there for our seniors, not cutting their benefits to fund an unproven proposal.

PROPOSED HEALTH CARE REFORM
WOULD BE HARMFUL FOR
NORTH TEXAS BUSINESSES

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, in August, in addition to the town halls in my district, I hosted two roundtables with small- and medium-sized businesses in North Texas. Parts of health care reform are going to affect business, like it or not. They are going to see a tax increase, a new employer mandate, and penalties for noncompliance.

The North Texas business representatives said they needed more tools, not more regulation, to make health care affordable for small and medium businesses. With regard to an employer mandate, one panelist explained this would add to the burden during what are arguably tough economic times.

An individual who was the health benefits manager at a large manufacturing plant in Denton said, Our employees are already very well taken care of without mandates. If more gets mandated on us, then we are going to have to look at what we will cut, what we are going to take away in order to be competitive.

Another individual said, If we had to furnish health insurance, if it is mandated on us, we just simply will not be able to afford to do so. We will have to cut jobs.

I promised to take the lessons learned back to Washington, D.C., as we continue to work on health care reform. Most Americans today are actually concerned more about jobs and the economy than the current health care proposals that we are debating here in Congress.

Washington should be working to help businesses create jobs, not writing penalties for those who are trying to provide employment.

MEDICARE CUTS WOULD IMPACT
OUR SENIORS

(Mr. BOUSTANY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, as a heart surgeon, I saw patients firsthand in our current government-run programs, like Medicare, who lacked real access to a doctor, leaving them out of the system. Many of our Medicare patients and seniors out there know exactly what I am talking about.

So I ask the Democratic leadership, how can you cut \$500 billion, a half-trillion dollars, from Medicare, and not hurt access and quality for our seniors? I also ask our Democratic leadership, how can you create a government-run health care takeover that fails to control costs or improve quality?

We can do better. I know we can do better. We can achieve commonsense solutions in a bipartisan way. But the current Democratic-led bills do not do that. They do not constitute meaningful reform.

We need to work together to strengthen Medicare, to put it on a bet-

ter and sounder financial footing, to ensure that it will be there for our seniors when they need health care. We need to lower costs for all seniors, and for all Americans, for that matter, by increasing competition in the health insurance marketplace, promoting wellness programs and limiting frivolous lawsuits.

Let's put the doctor and patient back in control of health care.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members must heed the gavel, please, and adhere to the 1-minute limitation.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. HERGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, as the backbone of our economy, small businesses create over 72 percent of all new jobs. It defies logic that House Democrats would pay for their government takeover of health care by actually raising taxes on these same businesses by \$820 billion.

During a serious economic downturn, we should be pursuing policies that will create jobs and put us on the path to recovery. Instead, these tax hikes will cost an additional 5.5 million jobs.

History shows that the American economy is at its strongest when taxes are lower and small businesses are permitted to keep more of their money to invest and grow.

Mr. Speaker, higher taxes for government-run health care is a bad deal for the American people.

IN SUPPORT OF MEDICARE
ADVANTAGE

(Mr. MARCHANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I have heard repeatedly from the seniors about their high satisfaction with Medicare Advantage and their fears of losing it. The Senate Finance plan would slash \$123 billion from Medicare Advantage.

Over 10 million seniors are currently enrolled in the Medicare Advantage plan, and, according to CBO Director Elmendorf, those proposed cuts to Medicare Advantage will force reduced benefits for many seniors, over 100,000 seniors in the three counties that I represent. This is in stark contrast to "if you like your insurance, you can keep it."

Director Elmendorf states very clearly that under the Senate Finance plan, Medicare Advantage enrollees will suffer reduced benefits.

We must preserve Medicare Advantage for those who are benefiting from the peace of mind that it provides, and